

**CITY OF LODI  
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION  
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, December 6, 2005, commencing at 7:05 a.m.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, Mounce, and Mayor Beckman

Absent: Council Members – None

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Blackston

**B. TOPIC(S)**

**B-1 "Review conceptual Water Meter Retrofit Program"**

Public Works Director Prima reported that 16 water meters have been installed on residential units in the community for the purpose of gathering data on variations of water usage. He explained that services prior to 1979 would need to be modified to accept a meter, services installed from 1979 to 1992 are ready to accept a meter, and homes built after 1992 have already paid for a water meter. Mr. Prima displayed a water meter and confirmed that they would be read electronically and would last from 10 to 15 years. Replacing meters and batteries would become a part of an ongoing program. Currently, the City is out to bid for a contractor to install a pilot group of 400 meters. The City would not begin charging metered rates until next fiscal year. Staff recommends that modifying services to accept a meter would be a utility cost. It is estimated that the program could be accomplished over a 20-year period without raising rates.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Prima stated that water rates would need to be increased 30% to 40% for the program to be completed in three years.

Council Member Hansen felt that 20 years was too long and suggested that the program be completed by 2012 at the latest. He believed that meters would also help to conserve water, which is greatly needed due to the declining water table. He asked staff to bring back various alternatives to expedite the program.

Council Member Johnson suggested that one alternative could be that everyone pays for their own hook up.

Mayor Beckman recommended that meters be installed as soon as possible on the 5,700 homes that have meter boxes and begin with those who have already paid for the meters.

Mr. Prima noted that if a meter is in place the State requires that commodity rates be charged by 2010.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Prima confirmed that the water main replacement project includes the cost for modifications to accept water meters. If property owners are charged for the modifications it would be a cost savings to the replacement program.

Council Member Mounce pointed out that the highest cost would be to those who live in the older sections of Lodi, many of which have limited incomes. She felt it was unfair to penalize certain homeowners because of the City's aging infrastructure.

Mr. Prima noted that one of the key components of the water main replacement program is to relocate water lines from rear yards to the street. If retrofitting for water meters is done on an expedited basis, there will be areas that still have a rear yard service and the meter would have to be installed in that location. If the two programs were more closely linked there would be a cost savings in the long run by not installing meters in rear yards and then later having to relocate it when the main is moved to the street.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock asked to be provided with data regarding the percentage of homeowners and renters on the east side.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Eileen St. Yves recalled this issue being discussed with Council 20 years ago. She believed that water meters would conserve water and was in favor of expediting the program. She noted that it has been the policy of the City to collect water and sewer fees on vacant housing units. She expressed support for placing sub-meters on apartments for water used in landscaping and pools.

**C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Blackston  
City Clerk